Increasing prices of common consumer goods

812. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of common consumer goods like sugar, milk, tea, vegetables oils, bread, eggs, bctter have increased manifold causing hardship to the common man;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to check the increase and bring down the prices;

(c) what are the comparative prices which revailed in the market during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 of the commodities mentioned above; and

(d) whether Government have fixed purpose to fix the prices of common consumer goods and whether any action has been taken for violation of the Government order?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (c) A statement giving the wholesale price indices of consumer goods like sugar, milk, tea, vegetable oils, bread, eggs, butter during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto 25-2-19939) are given here. (*Sse* below)

(b) The Government has accorded the highest priority to control the prices of essential commodities and also augmenting their supplies. Schemes are under way for augmenting their indigenous production and to supplement their availability. The commodities like edible oils, pulses, sugar, cotton etc. are imported in the most desired quantity. To mitigate the hardships in the common man, these commodities are being supplied through the network of retail outlets of cooperative institutions, Kendriya Bhandars and the State Civil Supplies Corporation. The prices of thse commodities are being monitored on regular basis by an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee functing in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

(d) The prices of most of these goods are determined by the forces of demand the supply. However Government is taking measures to distribute consumer items like suggar, palmolein through the pubic distribution, through the public distribution system (PDS) at below market prices.

Statement

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF SELECTED CONSUMER GOODS DURING 1992-93, 1993-94 *AND* 1994-95 (*UP TO FEB.*, 1995)

Wholesale Price Index Numbers (*Base* 1981-82-100)

Commodities	1992-93 (Mar., 93)	1993-94 (Mpr., 94)	1994-95 (Feb., 95)
Sugar	193.5	227.8	219.8
Milk	274.3	279.8	314.4
Tea	352·7	246·8	333.2
Groundnut Oil	192·8	229·8	300.0
Mustard Oil	196.4	210.6	259.0
Vanasppti	225·9	228.2	270.0
Bread	247.2	264·3	268.5
Eggs	224·2	271·7	328.2
Butter	258·3	265·5	341.5